G.A.R.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

S.U.V.C.W.

THE CLARION CALL

Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

1866 VOLUME No. 2 ISSUE No. 2 July 2003 1881

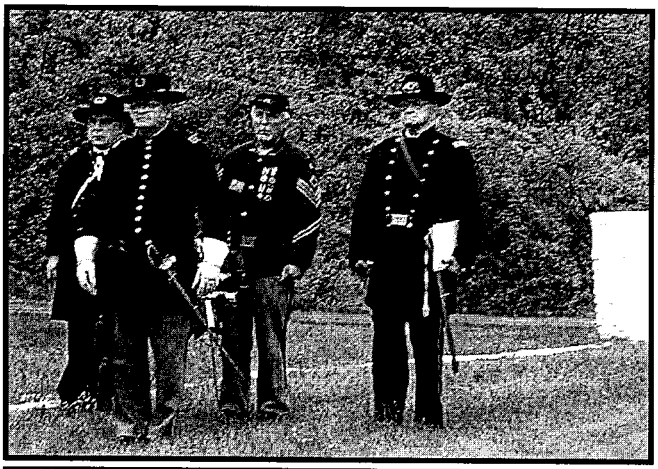
121st Department Encampment Held in Sturbridge

Sturbridge, MA - On Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10, 2003, the 121st Massachusetts Department Encampment was held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center.

Among the highlights of the first session, held on Friday, were amendments to the Department by-laws, in order to better align Department reporting procedures with that of the National Organization's. Following the session, the delegates were entertained by actor Lewis Dubé, who portrayed President Abraham Lincoln, joined by his wife, who portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln.

On Saturday, the second session was held, during which four resolutions were presented to the Encampment by Camp No. 104 Commander Kevin Tucker. (See summaries of the resolutions on page 9) The resolutions, pertaining to reforms of the structure of the National Organization's administration, were passed unanimously by the Encampment and will be presented to the National Encampment in August.

The election of Department Officers for 2003—2004 were held in the afternoon, (for a complete list of Dept. Officers, see page 3) followed by the Installation of Officers, with CC Kevin Tucker as the Installing Officer. On Saturday evening the annual Encampment Banquet was held with Department Council Member Richard Eccleston, Sr. providing musical entertainment, including songs from the sound track of the recently released Civil War motion picture "Gods & Generals". Fine food and camaraderie was enjoyed by all.



Dept. Chaplin Marty Kennedy, Dept. JVC Dean Sargent and Dept. Commander Robert Knight join 11th Mass. Commander Col. Frank Tucker at a memorial ceremony to honor Civil War Veterans buried at Long Island Cemetery

S.U.V.C.W. Honors Forgotten Civil War Veterans At Damaged Long Island Cemetery

Boston, MA — The Department of Massachusetts and members of the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry assembled on Long Island in Boston Harbor on Sunday, May 26th, to honor the forgotten Civil War Veterans buried there. The Department under the leadership of Brother Al Barton and Camp 104, has been working with Boston city officials to organize a restoration of the desecrated hospital cemetery there.

(More photos on pages 2, related story on page 8.)

Contact the Editors at:

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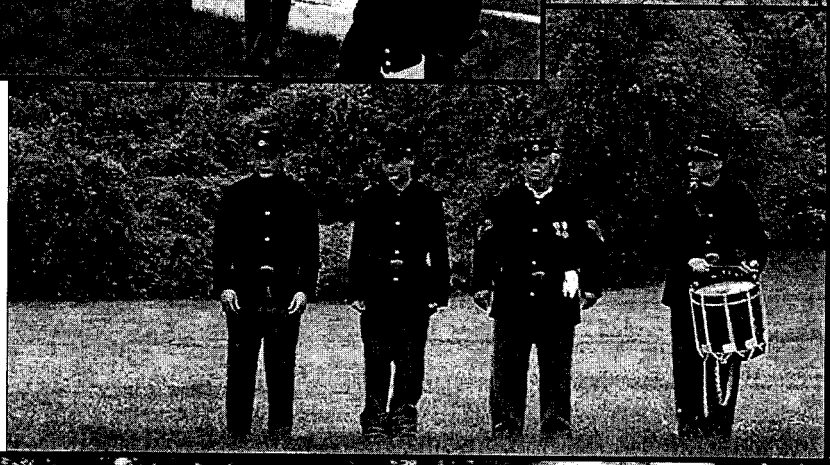
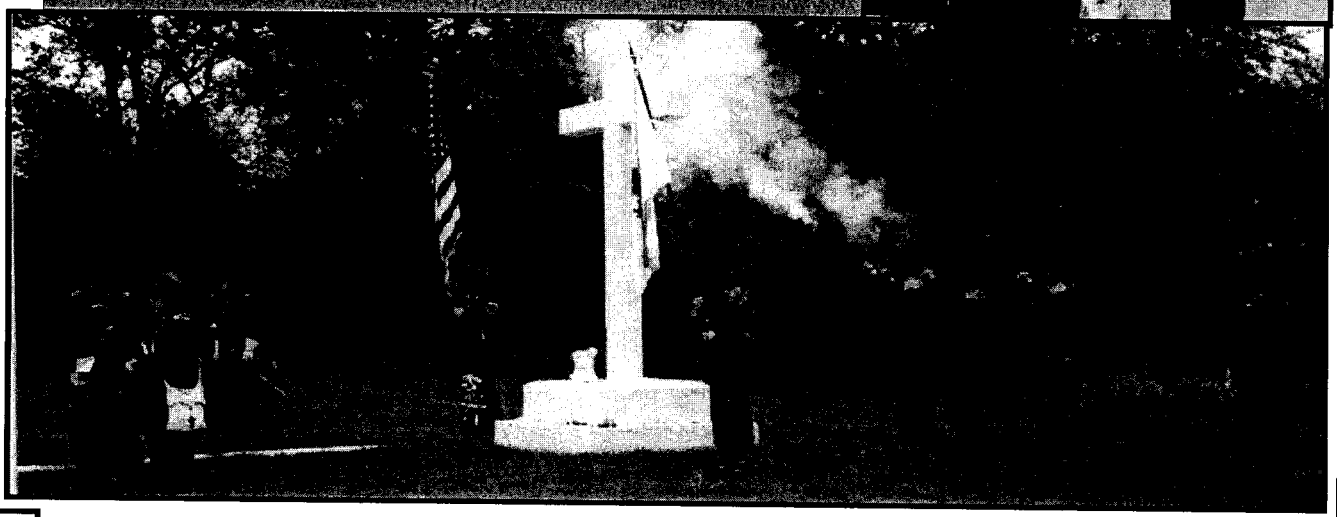
Email: John7SUV@aol.com or rrodriguez@worcester.edu

VISIT THE DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS WEBSITE AT:
www.suvmass.org

PHOTOS FROM MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT LONG ISLAND CEMETERY, BOSTON





Photos courtesy of Dept. Secretary Bill Ryerson

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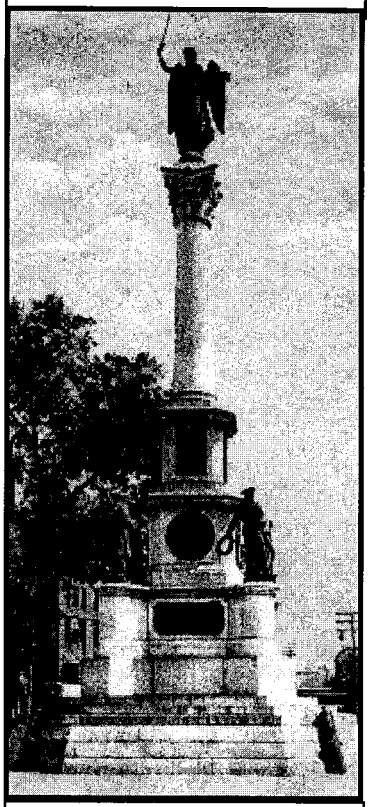
WORCESTER CIVIL WAR MONUMENT



Dedicated July 15,1874
"erected by the people of Worcester in memory of her sons who died for unity of the Republic
A.D. 1861-1865"

NOTICE TO ALL CAMP SECRETARIES

All Camp Secretaries are reminded that Camp election results and the Camp's Official Membership List is to be reported solely and directly to the **Department Secretary.**

Any Camp not sending these reports directly to the Department Secretary are in direct violation of the Constitution and Regulations, and are subject to Disciplinary Action by the Department, up to and including the offending Camp being listed as **NOT IN GOOD STANDING** with the Department.

-William T. Ryerson
Dept Secretary

CIVIL WAR FACT: The artillery barrage during Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg was heard over 100 miles away in Pittsburgh

Starting next issue: More Civil War Monuments and a new feature: Member Profiles!

MILITARIA: A BRIGADE is comprised of 3 to 6 Regiments and is commanded by a Brigadier General.
If a brigade had 4 Regiments at full strength, it would number 4,000 men, (not including staff).

Current Camp Websites:

Willie Grout Camp #25, Worcester can be found at:
www.geocities.com/williegrout

Gen. Harstuff Camp #50, Rockland, MA can be found at:
www.hartsuffcamp50.freeservers.com

A.A. Sherman Camp #18, Uxbridge, MA can be found at:
www.geocities.com/aasherman2003

Upcoming Events:

Meetings/Reenactments Parades/Living History:

Aug. 2/3, 2003
Living History
Ludlow, MA

Aug. 7-10
122nd SUVCW
National Encampment
Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky

Aug. 9/10
Reenactment
Ryegate, VT

Aug. 23
Living History
Holden, MA

Aug. 23/24
Reenactment
Old Chatham, NY

Aug. 30/31
Civil War Event
Museum Village
Monroe, NY

Sep. 13/14
Reenactment
Ft. Nathan Hale
New Haven, CT

Sep. 20/21
Reenactment
Oak Grove Farm
Millis, MA

Oct. 4/5
Reenactment
River Bend Farm
Uxbridge, MA

Oct. 11/12
Reenactment
Brick House
Montgomery, NY

Oct. 18/19
Living History Boylston, MA

Nov. 15
Remembrance Day Parade
Gettysburg, PA

Civil War Profile: Albert A. Sherman

by Frank Haley
A. A. Sherman Camp No. 18

First Sergeant Albert A. Sherman, who was born in East Douglas, MA on August 26, 1837, was one of the original signers of the Grand Army of the Republic Uxbridge Post No. 25 Charter on September 13, 1867.

Sherman enlisted as a private in Company G of the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry on October 5, 1861 at the age of 24. The 1st Massachusetts Cavalry Volunteers fought in twelve general battles, thirteen cavalry engagements and sixty-four skirmishes.

Sherman served as a Corporal, Duty Sergeant and Quartermaster Sergeant in Company G. He became a Regimental Pioneer Sergeant and First Sergeant of Company H, leading the company from April 1, 1865 until July 18,1865.

He was wounded at the Battle of Antietam, wounded (slightly) at the Battle of Middleburg, and was wounded again, in the head, during the Battle of New Hope Church, Virginia.

Sherman's heroism at the Battle of Aldie is told in a "History of the First Massachusetts Cavalry Volunteers" by Brevet Colonel Benjamin Crownshield, published in 1891.

Albert A. Sherman was discharged as a full First Sergeant, 1st Class, on June 18, 1865 in Washington, D.C. He returned to Uxbridge, MA and resumed his occupation as a mason. He then went on to hold many local and federal positions during the 1800s and early 1900s.

PITCHING IN...

Members of Willie Grout Camp #25 gathered at the Hope Cemetery in Worcester, MA, on May 17, 2003. As is their annual tradition, they came to clean up the G.A.R. plots, to prepare them for Memorial Day. The crew did a great job mowing, raking, weed-whacking, mulching and planting flowers.

My Civil War Ancestor
Alexander H. Johnson
54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

by Richard S. Massey
Willie Grout Camp No. 25

My Civil War ancestor was Alexander H. Johnson. He was born in New Bedford, MA. As New Bedford was the whaling capitol of the world, Alexander found employment as a sailor at a young age.

On March 2nd, 1863, at the age of 15, he enlisted as a drummer boy in Company C of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and remained with the unit until the end of the war. He was mustered out on August 20th, 1865, at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

After he returned from the war, Alexander joined the Grand Army of the Republic as a member of General George H. Ward Post #10 in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Alexander Johnson died on March 19th, 1930, at the age of 82, just a few weeks after the 67th anniversary of his enlistment in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.
He is mentioned in the book "We All Got History" by Nick Salvatore.

The 54th Massachusetts Voluneer Infantry Regiment

Mustered in on May 13,1863, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, led by Col. Robert Gould Shaw, left Boston on May 28 and landed in Hilton Head, South Carolina on June 3,1863, as part of the 10th Army Corps, 3rd Brigage, 1st Division.

In July, 1863 the Regiment participated in the unsucessful Union seige of Batery Wagner, where it lost Colonel Robert Shaw, as well as hundreds of other brave soldiers. It was here that William H. Carney displayed the heroism which would earn him the Medal of Honor. "When the color sergeant was shot down, this soldier grasped the flag, led the way to the parapet, and planted the colors thereon. When the troops fell back, he brought off the flag, under a fierce fire in which he was twice severely wounded." One of those wounds was a bullet wound to his head, but when finally made it back to the Union line, he refused to relinquish the flag to anyone but a member of his Regiment. When he was carried back to his unit, Carney told them, "Boys, I only did my duty. The flag never touched the ground." Sergeant William H. Carney became the first Black American to perform an act for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

On February 7through the 22,1864, the Regiment took part in the Battle of Oulustee, in Florida. The 54th Massachusetts Infantry also fought at the Battle of Honey Hill in South Carolina on November 30,1864 . The Regiment was mustered out at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina on August 20,1865, and was discharged at Boston, Massachusetts, September 1,1865. The major motion picture "Glory" is based on the history of this brave Regiment.

Editor's Note: *We would like "My Civil War Ancestor and his Unit" to be a regular feature in* ***The Clarion Call****. Members of the Department of Massachusetts are strongly encouraged to submit a story and photograph, (if available) of their Civil War Ancestor to the* ***The Clarion Call*** *for future publication.*

FROM THE CLARION CALL EDITORS

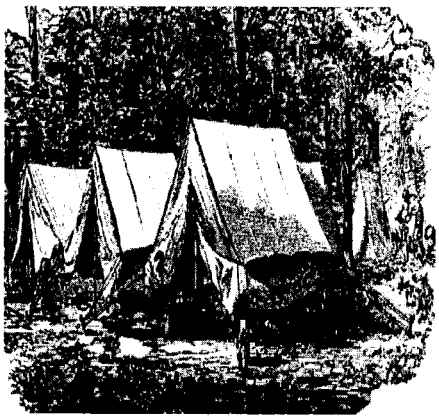
The Clarion Call was established for the purpose of increasing Department communication, building fraternity and camaraderie among Members and creating a sense of community throughout the Department of Massachusetts. The editors endeavor to publish articles on important issues pertaining to the principals and objects of the Department and the organization, along with the efforts and achievements of its Members and Camps.

We, the Editors, reserve the right to refuse to publish articles which we feel do not further the purposes for which the newsletter was established. Complaints regarding fellow Members, Camps or Department Administration Members should be directed to the Camp, Department or National Organization administrator responsible for taking action, as outlined in the S.U.V.C.W.'s Constitution and Regulations.

We will publish all Department Orders as they are issued, including those reporting the outcome of any administrative actions with regard to complaints of these types. However, the Clarion Call is not a forum for expressing complaints or opinions concerning these types of issues.

The Editors of the Clarion Call want to remind our Brothers in the Department of Massachusetts that this publication belongs to all the Members and Camps in the Department. We encourage you to make every effort to submit stories, news articles, Camp activities, (past and future) and any other ideas and suggestions to for publication in the newsletter. With your contributions, the Clarion Call will be a publication representing the entire Department.

- John Bates & Rey Rodriguez, Editors



ASSISTANCE CREATING CAMP WEBSITES

The internet is a fantastic 21st century tool that can help your Camp recruit new members and keep your current ones informed.

And it won't cost you or your Camp a thing! Various companies on the internet offer **free** website hosting.

If you are interested in having a Camp website created and just don't have the time or the ability, contact Rey Rodriguez at rrodriguez@worcester.edu.

Brother Rey has volunteered to assist any Camp interested in building and publishing a free Camp web page. Requirements include an email address for the Camp, Camp description and history, (i.e., who the Camp was named for and a brief biography) and the names and contact information of Camp Officers.

To view a sample of Rey's websites, go to www.geocities.com/williegrout, and check out the website he created for Camp 25.

General Hartstuff Post #50, is located in Rockland, Massachusetts, and is the headquarters of the Department of Massachusetts. The Hall has been restored and is great place to hold many Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War functions. Meetings, encampments, military balls, living histories, among other things. The Hall has two auditoriums, and its original meeting room. With 19 beautiful stain glass windows, the Hall is a reminder as the might of the G.A.R. Located in Rockland it is an easy commute for all members of the Department and has adequate parking.

Annual Remembrance Day Trip to Gettysburg Planned

The Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW and the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry invite interested members and their families to join us on our annual "Remembrance Day Weekend Trip", November 13th through 16th, where we will participate in the 140th Anniversary of President Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address".

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

DEPARTURE: 11/13/03-8:00 AM from Riverside Center, 275 Grove Street in Newton, Mass. (Free, secure parking available for weekend). Travel will be on a comfortable Colonial Tours Motor Coach. We will be at Gettysburg by dinnertime and will be lodging at the Quality Inn on Steinwehr Ave, next to the battlefield.

SIDE TRIP: 11/14/03-7:30 AM, Depart Quality Inn for a guided tour of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Parks.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: 11/15/2003—1:00 PM, SUVCW Remembrance Day events. Among the highlights: A parade beginning at 1:00 PM, ending at the "High Water Mark" on the Gettysburg battlefield. Immediately following the parade, a memorial ceremony will be held at the "High Water Mark, with the "Gettysburg Address" being recited by Jim Gettys as Abraham Lincoln and concluding with "Hands Across the Wall" ceremony.

CIVIL WAR BALL: 11/15/03-9:00 PM, The SUVCW will hold its annual period dress "National Military Ball" at the Gen. Eisenhower Inn, with proceeds going to the battlefield monument restorations.

RETURN: 11/16/03—11:00 AM, Departing Gettysburg for home. Expect to arrive back in Newton at around 7:00 pm.

The cost is only $180.00 per person! (double occupancy) and includes travel, lodging, park entrance fees and box lunch for our tour of Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg.

Participants are responsible for all other meals and trip costs. Reservations are limited to 40 people, so make your reservations as soon as possible.

Please send a deposit of $50.00 by 9/15/03, with balance due 10/15/03. Mail check or money order payable to "The Boston Volunteers", to:

Kevin Tucker
14 Crestview Terrace
Gloucester, MA 01930

Memorial Day Ceremonies 2003

Bill Ryerson,PDC

Gloomy skies greeted members of the Department of Massachusetts and the 11th Mass. Infantry as they climbed out of bed early on Sunday, May 25. Arriving on Long Island in Boston Harbor about 8:15 AM, I found many sleepy-heads already in uniform for the Memorial Service or the 80 or so Civil War Veterans burred there. Chaplain Martin Kennedy was there early holding a Bible in one hand and the other palm up feeling for raindrops. Asked what he was up to, we were told "praying for sunshine". The Services on Long Island were impressive with Col. Frank Tucker of the 11th Mass. and Camp 104, Dept. Cmdr. Bob Knight, Chaplain Kennedy and Color Sergeant Rick Eccelston leading the way. The Boston Globe, TV Channel Five, and the Associate Press covered the event, with Col. Frank Tucker's photo on the front page of the Memorial Day Issue of the Globe. (See pictures on page 2.)

At the conclusion of the services on Long Island, the group depaerted for Cape Cod, where our Color Guard assembled at the Veterans Administration National Cemetery in Bourne for the annual Veterans of Massachusetts observance.

A very sharp Department of Massachusetts SUVCW unit of over twenty members paraded into the cemetery, along with the many other Veterans groups. Col. Tucker read General Logan's Order No. 11 to the large crowd in attendance.

After the formal ceremonies including a wreath laying by the Massachusetts SUVCW, our troops marched to the Grave of the Unknown Civil War Soldier (a Mass. Volunteer, identified by his buttons) to perform a special memorial service. DC Knight led the service assisted by Col. Tucker, Chaplain Kennedy, the 11th Mass. firing squad, bugler Ian McCarthy of Camp 104, and of course Cemetery Trustee Maj. Edward Parks, PDC.

After all this endeavor, our appetites were ready for a meal and that was provided by the Aptuxet VFW Post, where it is reported that DC Knight was seen stuffing sandwich rolls into his field jacket.

After a long day of marching about, our "soldiers" returned to their homes again satisfied that a dignified remembrance had been made for our ancestors who fought to Save the Union.

The following Day members of the 11th Mass. Infantry marched in the rain at the Medford Memorial Day Parade, We hear that many uniforms weren't dry until the Fourth of July.

(Photos courtesy of Bill Ryerson and Rey Rodriguez)

Resolutions to the National Encampment

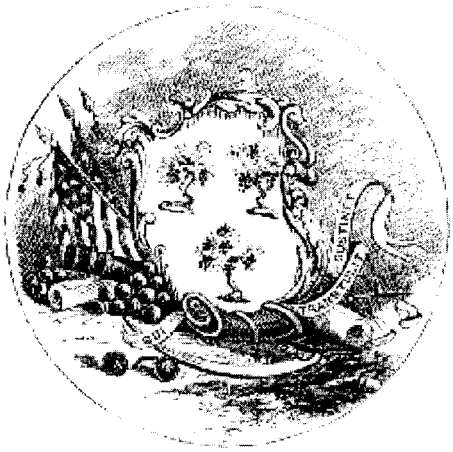
The following resolutions were passed at the Department Encampment in May, and will be sent to the National Encampment in August:

1. Convene a Constitutional Convention to reform the National Organization Administration to better adhere to the Congressional Charter's requirement for equal representation.

2. Make the Department Commanders from each Department in the organization voting members on the Council of Administration and to abolish the three Elected Council of Administration Members.

3. Require that no Brother serve on more than one National Standing or Special Committee. The Commander-in-Chief will appoint Committee Chairmen.

4. The National Committee on Americanization and Education have only 4 members plus the National Patriotic Instructor as the Chairman. The National Committee on Constitution and Regulations to have only 4 members plus the National Counselor as the Chairman. The Nation Committee on Legislation to have only 4 members plus the National Washington D.C. Representative as the Chairman. The National Committee on Communications and Technology to have only 4 members plus the National Signals Officer as the Chairman.



CONNECTICUT DC DENT PASSES AWAY

Connecticut Department Commander Russ Dent, 57 years old, passed away on June 16, 2003.

There were about 75 people in attendance at his funeral service. Representing the Department of Massachusetts was Department Commander Bob Knight.

With a mixed firing squad of Revolution and Civil War re-enactors, Brother Dent was given a proper military funeral service with full honors. The flag which draped his coffin was folded up by an Army Sergeant and presented to Mrs. Dent. Russ Dent was laid to rest in the New Valley Falls Cemetery in Vernon, Connecticut.

The Last Word

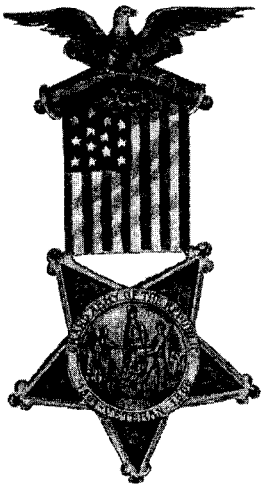
Recruiting is EVERY Brother's job. I know that every Member has heard this before, but I want to remind everyone that, as our numbers get smaller, so does our ability to accomplish the mission of the Sons of Union Veterans.

Interaction with other Veterans groups for Memorial Day, Restoring GAR and Civil War Monuments, caring for the graves of our ancestors, and teaching future generations about the Civil War are some of the reasons why most of us joined the SUVCW. It is our responsibility to pass a strong and vital organization on to the next generation of Civil War descendants.

Ideas to recruit: Have regular meetings/events, set up display booths, rededicate monuments, invite the public to hear a special speaker and seek those with our interests in the civil war, history, and preserving our past.

If each brother recruited just 1 member, we'd double in size immediately!

G.A.R.



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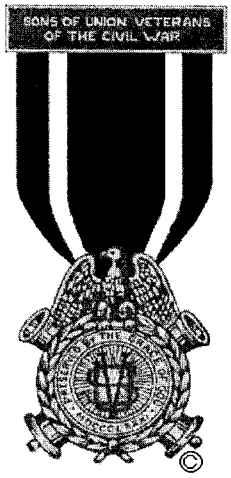

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